

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 9-20 are pending in the application and have been examined. With this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 9 and adds new claims 21-23. After entry of this amendment, claims 9-23 will be pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims recite allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

Claims 9-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0042445 to Mitchell *et al.* ("Mitchell") in view of one of U.S. Pat. No. 6,583,434 to Struye *et al.* ("Struye") and U.S. Pat. No. 5,905,014 to Van de Bergh ("Van de Bergh"). Applicant has amended claim 9 and respectfully submits that the amended claim would not have been rendered obvious over the cited references.

Addressing claim 9, the combination of Mitchell, Struye and Van de Bergh does not disclose or suggest at least wherein the filter device and the detector comprise an integrated photodetector, as recited in the claim.

Mitchell is directed to an apparatus for reading a latent image stored on a storage layer radiation screen which includes optics for collecting emitted light and a sensor positioned to capture from the optics the light emitted by the screen (Abstract). Mitchell, however, does not provide an enabling disclosure or suggestion for at least claimed photodetector. Neither Struye nor Van de Bergh provide the disclosure missing in Mitchell.

Both Van de Bergh in Struye are directed to the composition of phosphors in a radiation image storage panel, and both references are silent as to the above-noted claimed features of integrated photodetector. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made based to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner, since combining the references would not have resulted in obtaining all of the claimed features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 10-20, which depend from claim 9, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 21-23. New claim 21 depends from claim 9 and is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence. Claim 22 contains features similar to the features recited in claim 9 and is therefore patentable for similar reasons. New claim 23 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 22.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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